

## **STUMP GULCH FACT SHEET**

**DATE:** August 25, 2010

**TIME:** 0800 Hours

**INCIDENT:** Stump Gulch Fire

**INCIDENT COMMANDERS:** Unified Command  
Rich Cowger, Chief Columbus Fire & Rescue  
Doug Williams, DNRC County Assist Team

**INFORMATION OFFICERS** DNRC County Assist Team: Dwayne Andrews  
(406-852-0020) & Linda Williams (406-868-1487)

For public to get updated information on the fire status:  
Stillwater County Emergency Operations Center Phone – 322-8060 (M – F)  
Stillwater County web-site: [www.stillwater.mt.gov](http://www.stillwater.mt.gov)  
Inciweb Site: [www.inciweb.org](http://www.inciweb.org)

**FIRE LOCATION:** 4 miles west of Columbus, north of Highway 10 and north of Interstate I-90. The fire is primarily west of Rapelje Road.

**JURISDICTION:** Stillwater County – private & State land and subdivisions

### **CURRENT SITUATION:**

ACRES: Still estimated at 9,780 acres

CONTROLLED – 100%

### **RESOURCES ON FIRE:**

PERSONNEL: 35

FIRE ENGINES: 15

HELICOPTERS: 2

### **SPECIAL CONCERNS:**

All roads in the area are now open to public use.

Public is advised to be careful and use caution when traveling in the areas where firefighters are suppressing the fire, building fire line or other suppression actions. Be aware of wildland engines using the roads.

Homeowner's are encouraged to register their cell phone numbers with Stillwater county emergency notification system. The public can call 406-322-4386 (Sheriff's Office) or access Stillwater.mt.gov web site to register.

**ACTIONS TAKEN:** Yesterday, with the assistance of cooler temperatures and higher humidity, there was good progress on line construction. Crews completed a successful

burnout within the interior of the fire on Tuesday, August 24, 2010. Adjacent homeowners were notified in advance of the burnout.

**ACTIONS PLANNED:** The Incident management team will transfer management of the fire to Stillwater County. Crews continue to work hard on completing and re-enforcing fire lines, mop-up and monitoring areas within the fireline that were not burned during the initial fire. Some engines will be on patrol status for the duration. An incident commander and 15 engines will remain on the fire. The fairgrounds will still house the support staff and kitchen unit.

**FUEL TYPE:** grass, timber & brush and some steep terrain

**WEATHER:** Moderate temperatures, with 15% humidity. Winds 5 -10 mph today.

**ASSISTING AGENCIES:** Fire departments from: Columbus, Absarokee, Molt, Carbon County, Laurel, Big Timber, Reed Point, Roberts, Nye, Joliet, Park City, & Rapelje. Sweet Grass, Stillwater County agencies: Sheriff's Office, Search & Rescue, Disaster & Emergency Services, GIS, & Road department.

Other agencies: Montana Highway Patrol, Montana Department Natural Resources & Conservation, Montana Department of Transportation, Forest Service, & Bureau of Land Management.

**HISTORY OF EVENT:** The Stump Gulch was reported at 11:11 am on Saturday, August 21, 2010. The cause is under investigation. Initially the fire moved northeast most of Saturday. Extreme fire behavior caused spotting up to one-quarter mile ahead of the fire front. Stillwater County used the emergency notification system to evacuate 8 residents along Rapelje road. Those residents have been allowed to return to their homes.

Precipitation on most of the fire Sunday night cooled nighttime temperatures and dampened fine fuels.

No structures have been lost. Fire Wise fuel mitigation actions were completed in the past around some homes in local subdivisions. BLM grant funds are utilized to assist landowners in completion of these fire mitigation efforts.

The fire was declared controlled on Wednesday, August 25, 2010. Engine resources, kitchen unit and a Type 4 Incident Commander will remain on the fire for the immediate future.